Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95 ("New World") of Antonin Dvorak (NBC Symphony Orchestra, Arturo Toscanini, conductor; WNYC)

Form and stability. Stability and form. Chaos is the law of nature. Order is the dream of man. Form and stability and chaos and order and "From her visible aspect to the profundities of her being, every part of her was permeated by the bewildering discordances of the real and the apparent. Under the serried complexities of her raiment--the huge hoop, the stiff ruff, the swollen sleeves, the powdered pearls, the spreading, gilded gauzes--the form of the woman vanished, and men saw instead an image--magnificent, portentous, self-created--an image of regality, which yet, by a miracle, was actually alive" said Lytton Strachey in Elizabeth and Essex, Austrian edition, 1943 on pages eleven and twelve and the subject of his remarks is "the supreme phenomenon of Elizabethanism--Elizabeth herself." Form and the daughter of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII ". . . kept the peace for thirty years--by dint, it is true, of one long succession of disgraceful collapses and unheard-of equivocations; but she kept it, and that was enough for Elizabeth" (Strachey, opere citato, page 15). The real and the apparent--chaos and order. Island countries and monarchy and the French are continental and the English are not and "I studied the Holbein portrait of Elizabeth and was not a little amazed at the resemblance between us" said Bette Davis in The Lonely Life (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City, 1962). "My personal feelings must not enter into this, God help me" and "What's today? Oh, Thursday. Go now and come again when I'm in a better mood. Next Wednesday or any Wednesday later in the summer, any summer. Oh, you're still here!" and "Do something, sing, play, amuse me--anything you please. A tournament of song, by all means. Proceed, proceed" and "The necessities of a queen must transcend those of a woman" and "To be a queen is to be less than human" and "My court gester once said that all the good fools come from Ireland, but only a great fool would go there" and "I have a great affection for rebels, often having been one myself" and "We're a marvelous people we English, but we can't hold our liquor" said Bette Davis on December 1, 1939 and as Robert Devereux takes leave of Elizabeth Tudor he states that "You and England must live. Good-bye my love." Form and stability.

(L'Aire: 12-1-75)